Government's position that the guiding principle for the resumption of civilian nuclear energy cooperation with the United States must remain the framework of the 18 July Joint Statement and India's Separation Plan. This position has been clearly communicated to the US Administration including by the Prime Minister to the US President. The language of the proposed Act is still under discussion in the US Congress and the Government would continue to engage the US Administration on this matter.

Economic package to Nepal

309. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's promised economic package to Nepal would take sometime as it is waiting for its neighbour to supply details on the kind of help required;

(b) if so, whether after restoration of democracy in Nepal it is necessary to provide help and assistance which was stopped due to unrest in Nepal;

(c) if so, what type of help/assistance Nepal asked for; and

(d) by what time Government would be able to provide assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The restoration of democracy in Nepal has provided a historic opportunity for a qualitative enhancement of our bilateral relations with Nepal. During the visit of His Excellency G.P. Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal to India from June 6—9, 2006, our Prime Minister conveyed India's readiness to render all possible assistance to Nepal for accelerating economic rehabilitation and development, in accordance with the priorities and wishes of the Government of Nepal. Government of India, *inter alia,* expressed its willingness to extend immediately a one-time grant of Rs. 100 crores to the budget of Government of Nepal; offered a soft credit line of US $ 100 million for the execution of infrastructure development projects; enhanced its 'Aid to Nepal' budget for the current financial year from 65 crore to Rs. 150 crore; and waived the dues outstanding as on June 9, 2006 owed by the Government of Nepal to the Government of India on account of defence purchases.